

School Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

AISB Library

Present: David Henry (DH), Omar Saibou (OS), Claudia Vondrasek (CV), Magnus Bucht (MB), Monique Uwimana (MU), Kathleen Peoples (KP), Petra Waslander (PW)

Absent: Steve Lutterbeck (SL), Rick Caswell (RC),

Others Present: Lynn Robinson (LR), Teachers' Representative, Michael Deutschmann (MD), Project Manager, Randy Neen (RN), Secondary School Principal; Lisa Cullen, parent

Opening

Call to order at 7:10 by OS.

Approval of Feb 24, 2010 meeting minutes; ALL (5 voting members) in favor

2. Teacher's Report (by LR)

Highlights included:

Soccer team did well despite the 5-6th place, good trip for the kids.

Francophone week – field trips, assembly with speeches, songs and a play
Successful Int'l Festival. Reported highest yield yet for income for the school
March Literacy Month is busy with activities for all grades, spelling bee was fun.

Third quarter is winding down, anticipating break, and yet still lots to get done before the end of the year.

Director's Report (by DH)

(See handout)

School bus was fixed, fuel pump replaced and discontinue use of bio diesel fuel for Big Bus;

Enrolment is steady for this month.

Teacher assistant manual has been drafted and 2nd draft of the business manual has been prepared.

Parent survey is on-going and 34 of 99 families have filled out survey to date. Deadline is March 24.

Recommendation – schedule is modified for next school year – extend the school day by 10 minutes until 2:30 for all campus', and modified block schedule is proposed for longer classes in the middle and high school. Fridays to be let out early at 1:30 to allow teachers to work on re-accreditation, curriculum development and staff meetings. Randy Neen clarified the reasons behind the new block schedule (more time with students, more focus on subjects, leaves more time to move between classes particularly for bigger new campus). Lunch was expanded to be 40 minutes, too. This will also provide additional time for homeroom type activities – announcements, forms, etc. 8 period rotation allows student in middle school for electives – Spanish, P.E., art or music. In the high school, allows for tutorial, counseling (educational and personal), college applications, etc.

Motion to approve the extend the regular school day by 10 minutes, shortened day on Fridays (1:30 pm) dismissal and new block schedule: ALL in favor (5 voting members)

The US Embassy security all grant – verbal OK but we do not have the paperwork yet.

DH participated in the pre-accreditation visit to a school in Ahafo, Ghana for Middle States Accreditation. Comes as follow-up to the AISA Conference in Zambia and building a relationship with the MSA.

Motion to adjust the school calendar to accommodate potential late opening date for the new school, by starting a bit early, and lengthen the December break to three weeks: ALL in favor (5 voting members)

Facilities Committee Report (by MB)

Security fence may need to be bid out, but we hope to continue with the same construction company, depends upon the total cost. A tender for the perimeter wall will take more time and we need to finish it before the rainy season starts.

The Facilities Committee agreed to host a Topping Ceremony, at the end of April, to celebrate the end of the masonry (*gros œuvre*). Estimated cost of the ceremony is between \$1400-2000.

Slowdown has been identified as the number of workers on the site has decreased. Counting on the OPIC money, but the Ecobank resources should get us through end of May. SO an OPIC disbursement by end of June would be OK for construction calendar.

Risk insurance for OPIC loan – still waiting to hear from the US Embassy.
VAT tax exemption – still waiting to hear from embassy to be able to get exemption on all construction related costs.

Finance Committee Report (by DH)

Next Board meeting will be the time to do the final revisions to the budget. Tuition is about 96% paid.

OPIC consultant suggested that AISB Board re-affirm the \$6.8 million loan from OPIC. Motion: School Board re-affirms its February 24, 2009 decision to pursue financing to complete the new school construction by approving the OPIC Loan of \$6,800,000. ALL in favor (5 voting members)

Small increases were proposed for tuition for 2010-2011, \$400 tuition increase in K-5 and 6-12 for next year. These are drafts and we will vote on increases and 2010 budget, and exchange rate during the next meeting. Sadiola school may decrease in size from three staff to two. There has been a shift in number of families there pending a previously planned mine closing.

Policy Committee (by MU)

No report.

Any Other Business: Draft General Association Meeting Agenda Draft (OS)

Proposed date - May 11

Introduction – Parent Survey results,

Elections

Facilities

Finances

The Board will develop a Board Report to review the progress made by the Board. (CV, MB, OS)

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.